GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5064
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
CULTURE OF ROAD SAFETY
RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK;SURESH KURUP

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `Time for imbibing road safety culture` appearing in the Hindu dated June 23, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether involvement of professionals, voluntary organisations and public at large has become necessary besides upgradation of drivers` skill of the heavy vehicles; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD KHANDURI, AVSM)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The news-item refers to Sixth Meeting of National Road Safety Council held on 21.6.2001 in which concern had been expressed about the large number of road accidents occurring due to improper maintenance of the motor vehicle or due to fault of the drivers. The news-item also mentions that the scope of National Highway Patrolling Scheme has been widened to include the NGOs also. Further, National Road Safety Award Scheme has been instituted for motivating Individuals and NGO in the field of Road Safety.

(c) & (d): The steps being taken are

i) Refresher training to Heavy Vehicle Drivers is given to drivers to remove flaws.

ii) Annual fitness certificate of commercial vehicles is necessary as per provision of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

iii) Over loading is to be restricted as per the provision of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

iv) State Governments to provide 25% concession in composite taxes for Multi Axle Vehicles as these enable carriage of heavier loads and reduce damage to roads.

v) Giving grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes in order to create awareness among the public.

vi) Under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme, from the year 2000-2001, voluntary organizations are also considered alongside State agencies.

vii) National Award has been instituted for voluntary organizations/individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

viii) All India Essay Competition on road safety are organized for school children for creating awareness among the school children.

ix) Observance of Road Safety Week in the first week of every year across the country etc.